

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 03940 081225Z
ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 ACDA-12
CIAE-00 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 EB-08 NRC-05
SOE-02 DOE-11 SS-15 SP-02 CEQ-01 PM-05 H-01
PA-01 USIA-06 DOEE-00 /140 W
-----016136 081231Z /17

P 081215Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8748
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USNATO
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
DIA WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 03940

FOR EMBASSY CAPETOWN

USIAEA

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MNUC, SOPN, UR, SF
SUBJECT: TASS ARTICLE ON SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM

SUMMARY. SIGNED TASS ARTICLE ON CONTINUED DANGER OF
SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR PLANS RAISES AGAIN THE RELATED
ISSUES OF LAST FALL ALTHOUGH IN A LESS URGENT MANNER.
ANTI-WESTERN TONE PERVADES ARTICLE, ALTHOUGH ARTICLE DOES
CONCLUDE WITH VAGUE CALL FOR ACTION BY "ALL THOSE WHO
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PAGE 02 MOSCOW 03940 081225Z

BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY."
END SUMMARY.

1. MARCH 8 PRAVDA CARRIES ARTICLE BY TASS POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT, S. KULIK, ON NEED TO STOP ALLEGED, CON-
TINUED SOUTH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS
PROGRAM. ASSUME DEPT HAS TEXT WHICH WAS TRANSMITTED ON

TASS ENGLISH WIRE DATED LINED MOSCOW MARCH 7.

2. ARTICLE, SIMILAR IN CONTEXT AND IN ANTI-WESTERN TONE TO THOSE CARRIED BY SOVIET MEDIA LAST FALL, CHARGES THAT:

-- FIRST EXPERIMENTAL SITE OF NUCLEAR TEST GROUND IN NAMIBIA IS NEARING COMPLETION AND CONSTRUCTION OF SECOND SITE IS UNDER PREPARATION;

-- HUGE INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX FOR PRODUCTION OF ENRICHED URANIUM IS BEING CONSTRUCTED IN EVANDER-TRIHARDTU (PHONETIC) NEAR JOHANNESBURG;

-- TAKING PART IN CREATION OF SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR INDUSTRY ARE SUCH FIRMS AS (FRG) SIEMENS, LEIBOLD, AND LURGI GESELLSCHAFT; (U.S.) FOXFORD, FEDERAL PRODUCTS; AND CERTAIN FRENCH AND SWISS FIRMS.

3. ANTI-WESTERN BIAS IN ARTICLE IS CLEARLY EVIDENT. KULIK STATES, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT "IT IS NOTEWORTHY, THAT THE SUPPLY OF EQUIPMENT FOR THE COMPLEX IN EVANDER-TRIHARDTU IS BROUGHT ABOUT BY THE PARTICIPATION OF NATO." HE ALSO CHARGES THAT "GREAT RESPONSIBILITY" FOR SOUTH AFRICAN NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENTS LIES ON "THOSE WESTERN STATES" WHICH, IN VIOLATION OF UN RESOLUTIONS, HELP TO DEVELOP SOUTH AFRICA'S NUCLEAR POTENTIAL.

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PAGE 03 MOSCOW 03940 081225Z

4. AFTER STATING THAT THE CREATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN SOUTH AFRICA WOULD HAVE THE "MOST SERIOUS AND FAR-REACHING CONSEQUENCES FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY," KULIK CONCLUDES AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN QUOTE. ALL THOSE WHO BEAR RESPONSIBILITY FOR INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY ARE REQUIRED TO ADOPT URGENT MEASURES TO BAR PRETORIA'S NUCLEAR AMBITIONS AND PREVENT THE PROLIFERATION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. END QUOTE.

5. COMMENT: THIS IS FIRST SIGNIFICANT ARTICLE ON THIS SUBJECT WE HAVE SEEN FOR MONTHS. ARTICLE DOES NOT SEEM TO HAVE THE SENSE OF EXTREME URGENCY WHICH MARKED THE SOVIET ARTICLES OF LAST FALL (INCLUDING THE TASS STATEMENT OF AUGUST 9). STILL, IT DOES CONCLUDE WITH AN IMPLICIT CALL FOR ACTION, PRESUMABLY BY THE MAJOR POWERS, ALTHOUGH THE EXACT FORM WHICH THAT ACTION SHOULD TAKE IS NOT AT ALL CLEAR. TOON

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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